

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Debbie Herbert at
334/242-8609

ALABAMA JOBLESS RATE HOLDS STEADY AT 4.4 PERCENT

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, June 17, 2005 Alabama's May unemployment rate of 4.4 percent is unchanged from the previous month, and below the 5.7 percent rate posted in May 2004.

"Through five months in 2005, the state's average jobless rate is 4.8 percent," says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. "The May rate represents 95,124 unemployed persons, compared to 94,447 in April, and 121,785 in May 2004."

ALABAMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES	
May 2005	4.4 percent
April 2005	4.4 percent
March 2005	4.7 percent
February 2005	5.2 percent
January 2005	5.3 percent

The comparable national rate for May is 5.1 percent, which declined from April's 5.2 percent rate, and is below the 5.6 percent rate in May 2004.

Over the year, there was a net gain of 30,300 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in professional and business services (+8,100); followed by manufacturing (+5,700); trade (wholesale and retail), transportation, and utilities (+5,600); educational and health services (+5,300); construction (+3,600); and leisure and hospitality (+2,400). The highest losses were recorded in other services (-900); financial activities (-800); and information (-600).

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, is requiring all states to revise 2004 and 2005 county unemployment rates normally included in the monthly release. As a result, those figures are expected to be released the middle of next week.

#

County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, will be available later at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on "Alabama Labor Market Information Division" under "Quick Links" and follow prompts.